

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00636 311205Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 INT-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /038 W
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R 311145Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3118
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 0636

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION DEMANDS PAY BOOST

1. ON MARCH 29, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE GERMAN MINE AND ENERGY WORKERS UNION DECIDED TO TERMINATE ALL WAGE CONTRACTS FOR THE GERMAN HARD COAL MINING INDUSTRY, I.E. FOR THE RUHR, AACHEN, SAAR AND IBENBUEREN COAL DISTRICTS, EFFECTIVE APRIL 30, 1977.
2. FOR THE 196,000 MINEWORKERS COVERED BY THE CONTRACT, THE UNION DEMANDS AN ACROSS THE BOARD PAY BOOST OF 8 PERCENT PLUS FRINGE BENEFITS (WEALTH ACCUMULATION FOR WORKERS) OF DM 13.- PER MONTH, WHICH WILL THEN COVER THE ENTIRE DM 624.- (TAXFREE PLUS SAVINGS BONUS) PROVIDED FOR BY THE LAW. NEGOTIATIONS WILL BEGIN AFTER EASTER. THE UNION ARGUES THAT ITS DEMANDS ARE REASONABLE AND NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE POSITION OF MINEWORKERS WAGES ON THE WAGE SCALE.

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3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE INDUSTRY IS IN A DIFFICULT ECONOMIC POSITION WITH ENORMOUS UNSOLD STOCK PILES ON ITS HANDS IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT BARGAINING WILL LEAD TO A CONFLICT. CO-DETERMINATION IS WORKING VERY SMOOTHLY IN COAL MINING AND PAY ADJUSTMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED IN THE PAST YEAR WITH A MINIMUM OF FRICTION. THERE IS NO

REASON WHY THIS SHOULD NOT WORK THIS YEAR, ALTHOUGH THE
MARGIN WHICH THE UNION MAY BE WILLING TO YIELD IS PRETTY
SMALL IN VIEW OF PAY BOOSTS IN OTHER BRANCHES BETWEEN 6.5
AND 7 PERCENT.DUX

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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